Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) An air-conditioning system comprising: a water tank; a feed pipe line for feeding water from the water tank to air-conditioning loads; a return pipe line for leading the water which has passed through the air-conditioning loads into the water tank; and a pressure sustaining valve disposed in the return pipe line, the system further comprising:

a branch pipe line connected to the return pipe line upstream of the pressure sustaining valve and branching into the water tank; and an energy recovery apparatus connected in the branch pipe line;

wherein the pressure sustaining valve is configured to selectively open and close depending on pressure in the return pipe line.

3. (Original) An air-conditioning system according to claim 2, wherein the energy recovery apparatus comprises: an operation control device for controlling operation of the energy recovery apparatus in such a manner that an inlet pressure falls within a predetermined rate range with respect to an inlet pressure during operation at a rated discharge, when a discharge passing through the energy-recovery apparatus changes.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) An air-conditioning system according to any one of claims 2 or 3, wherein the energy recovery apparatus comprises: a water wheel including a centrifugal impeller; a brushless permanent magnet synchronous generator; and a generator controller for controlling the generator.

6. (Original) An air-conditioning system according to claim 5, wherein a control valve is disposed in the return piping on the downstream side of the energy recovery apparatus.

7. (Original) An air-conditioning system according to claim 6, wherein the water wheel comprises pressure sensors for measuring inlet and outlet pressures upstream and downstream thereof so as to transmit output signals to the generator controller, the generator controller being capable of controlling a revolving speed of the generator incorporated to the water wheel based on the output signals, and delivering a control signal to the generator, and a power measuring device for measuring an output power of the generator to deliver a measurement result to a control valve controller, the control valve controller being capable of specifying a valve opening degree of the control valve based on the measurement result so as to deliver a valve opening signal to the control valve.

8. (Original) The air-conditioning system according to claim 7, wherein the revolving speed of the generator incorporated to the water wheel is increased in response to a decrease in the discharge, and the increasing of the revolving speed of the generator incorporated to the water wheel is caused so as to reduce the valve opening degree of the control valve by the control valve controller in association with the generator controller, when an output power of a water wheel or an effective head drop thereof is smaller than a set value recorded in the generator controller.